



LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 8th July 2025

Present: Ursula Beck, Alan King, Angela Lake, David Lander, Geoff Robillard, Judy Leader, Trevor Hincks, Lee Smith, Matt Graham Brown and Ron Brewin.

58/25: Apologies: Paul Sippitt, Sue Wainscot, Stacie Currie, Helen Bickerstaff, Sam Winter, Val Dunton. Zoe Lee, Jenny Beech, Tom Whitmore, Chris Perkins, and Jill Stidever were also absent from the meeting.

59/25: Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th June 2025:

It was agreed that the June 2025 minutes which were proposed by Judy Leader and seconded by Geoff Robilliard were a true record. All present in favour.

60/25: Matters Arising from the meeting held on 10th June 2025:

57/25 (b) Confirmed that Geoff had purchased the yellow and black trunking in 1m strips to cover the cables.

61/25: Correspondence & Secretary's report:

There was no Secretary report to discuss this month.

62/25 No acceptance of records this month.

63/25 Reports:

a) Treasurer

Judy discussed the financials from 1st-30st of June. Judy confirmed that the Finance Meeting had been arranged for 12th August with invites having gone out to relevant persons.

Report attached to appendix.

b) East Midland Region

Regional meeting scheduled for Saturday 12th July.

c) Swimming Report – discussion led by Ursula.

Jenny has been appointed as the Events Manager; initial meeting was held on 7th July. Geoff will support Jenny this year, Age Groups are in a good position.

Medals are in a good position for Age Groups, however there is still a requirement for a Trophy co-ordinator and a Volunteer coordinator. Lee will initially set up the volunteer job roles on Swim Meet which would open up the invitations to all club members and parents.

Interclub invites, there is a requirement to have visibility of when these will be shared.

Post meeting update provided by Sue.

Inter Clubs 6th September:

Information has now been sent to Leicester Sharks and the Conditions of Entry will be circulated to all clubs in the next few days. The decision to permit one team only for 2025 will stand due to H&S issues on poolside if we add any B Teams. Braunstone won the trophies in 2024, and they will be contacted to arrange the return of these; hopefully, they have been engraved by the club.

Inter County Team Championships Sheffield 5th October:

Team selection almost complete; put together in conjunction with COLSC Coaches; just a couple of outstanding queries. Selections based on short course ranking times subject to the maximum permitted team size of 32 swimmers. Harry Pickering and Jamie Black have agreed to Coach the team at the event. Information has yet to be published by Swim England

Swim Clinics:

Dates now set: 27th September; 1st November; 22nd November; 13th December.

First clinic is backstroke, and a communication is due to go out this week to confirm the number of spaces for each club.

The age ranges are 10-13 & 14 & over (as at 31.12.25). The total number of places for each date is 64.

The first camp will start around 12.30pm and the second camp will start around 2pm; each camp running for approximately 3 hours.

d) Masters Report

System is live and receiving entries for the September Meet.

Extending the plea for volunteers for the Masters events.

Report attached to appendix.

e) Rules Revision-

In the absence of Paul, Ursula confirmed that the Rules Revision meeting has not yet taken place, but Paul had informed her prior to the meeting that he would be dealing with this before the September LASA meeting.

f) Officials Report

Congratulations to Christine Davies, Gary Patterson and Matthew Streeter who had all successfully passed their final poolside assessment as Starters-

June's trainee and qualified list of officials had been and were a very accurate reflection of the officials we have in Leicestershire currently.

Disappointing that only a few people have signed up to the J2 course workshops using the new system. If there are more volunteers, Lee will look to set-up some online workshops. He would however meet with those who had signed up in person to discuss the process or refer them to their club coordinator who could lead the initial session, if confident to do so.

8 volunteers have already signed up for the Masters event. Lee said he would continue to request officials through the summer. The link to sign up was on the Officials Report attached.

Report attached to appendix.

g) IT Report

Judy is continuing with the website facelift, including a google calendar to advertise new events, and is taking onboard feedback from the Coaches & Chairs meeting. Having now created a Google Calendar, hoping to role this out for the clubs.

Judy is in the process of creating a Google Form, to enable Leicestershire members to subscribe to LASA, enabling us to email/contact them directly, to get information out more widely to the swimming community. This will also include an unsubscribe option. Consideration would also be given to age of those subscribing.

Report attached to appendix.

h) Disability Report

Diversity and Inclusivity volunteer advert has gone out to all clubs to share; there have been no applicants to date.

i) Presidents Report

David went through his report, particularly enjoying the Diddy League. Discussing referees and Judges, being more affluent in Northampton. Many in Leicestershire are J2S's and aren't moving to be Referees.

Matt has apologised for not acknowledging David as the LASA President, while officiating at a recent Leicester Meet, along with Sue who is a Previous Past President.

Judy suggested having periodic reviews/meetings with referees to try and overcome any issues, to keep them together as a unit, to discuss general topics/lessons learned etc.

David mentioned the feeling of belonging has dwindled, for all officials. Suggesting a regular meeting to improve the camaraderie.

He had also made mention of the interpretation /guidance for using/banning mobile phones in changing rooms, but he was aware that Ursula was also looking into this.

Report attached to Appendix.

64/25: Any other Business accepted by the Chair:

Nuneaton Junior Swimming League – Trevor said that Hinckley had come 10th, Leicester Sharks 7th and Braunstone 3rd in the League which meant that both Leicester Sharks and Braunstone would be swimming in the Nuneaton Diddy League Final in September.

Date of next meeting 9th September, meeting finished at 7.44pm

Appendices

1. Judy - Treasurer's Report
2. Lee and Ron – Officials Report
3. David – Presidents Report
4. Alan – Masters Report
5. Judy - IT Report

1. LASA Treasurer's Report for June 2025

LASA Treasurer's Report for July 2025 Meeting

Main Points

- The financial reports attached cover the period of 1st – 30th June 2025.
- Income is attributable to Accreditation Fees and bank interest.
- Expenditure is attributable to the regular outgoings (COL, Workspace, software etc), and the purchase of 10 radios for use at Club Champs and other galas.
- The Financial Review and next year's Budget meeting has been set for Tuesday 12th August 2025. All funding requirements and expenditure needs to be submitted before 31st July so the budget can be prepared and distributed prior to the meeting.

Attached reports:

Cash Flow for the Financial Year – showing financial year to date.

Profit & Loss for June 2025 – a Deficit is reported as expected at this time in the Financial Year.

Balance as at 30th June 2025 – showing overall financial position.

2. Officials Report for July 2025 Meeting

Congratulations to Christine Davies, Gary Patterson and Matthew Streeter who successfully passed their final poolside assessment as starters.

Thanks to Hinckley S.C. for allowing the testing to take place at their open meet at the end of June.

Officials update.

June's qualified and trainee list have been provided by SE and are a very accurate reflection of the officials we have in Leicester currently, with only a few queries related to license information. I have communicated to each club coordinator the officials I have on record for their club for clarification.

Judge 2 workshops. With such few numbers of Judge 2 signups, I haven't looked at organising any initial group workshops which are ideally required before they go poolside in this role. I will make every effort to meet these people in person to discuss the process or refer them to their club coordinator who can also lead this initial session if confident to do so.

LASA Masters

The LASA Masters Open Meet has now gone live on Swim Meet, and we have a steady flow of signups to date, I will continue to request officials throughout the summer. The link to sign up can be found [here](#).

3. LASA PRESIDENTS REPORT – JULY 2025

15 June - Attended City of Leicester Open Meet on the Sunday. Ideally with my presidential hat on but, in the event as an official. Had Sue and I not attended and worked poolside, the stalwart few that were there would have not been sufficient in number to certify the gala as fully staffed. As it was, we were on a precipice of legality in respect of event licencing requirements. We had to repeatedly adjust the available staff to ensure that there was adequate coverage. It was a busy day.

I emphasise here that it is my view that the swimming and the gala was administered in a right and proper manner, with the principle of fairness applied to all. That is undoubted. It is my belief that the spectators and the swimmers enjoyed the event and that the results produced some outstanding efforts – it was a wholly successful meet. City of Leicester are to be congratulated.

I am aware that there has been a great deal of valiant effort put into volunteer recruitment in Leicestershire - but what else can we do? What are we missing? AND I concur that I personally may be part of the problem!

21 June. The LASA Diddy Gala 'A' final at Corby International Pool. Uninvited, I attended as president and took the opportunity to be a spectator – it amused me that this is the first gala since around 1990 that I have been obliged to enter as a paying spectator! Still, it's £1 well invested. Sorry £2 – Sue went too. No regrets.

Teams from Melton Mowbray, Corby, Market Harborough, Coventry, Sharks, Rushden and Nene, Coalville, Loughborough took part and proudly displayed their banners. It was a commendably 'loud' gala.

There was some intense swimming, and places changed frequently as the gala progressed with (provisionally) Corby coming out as overall winners of the League. Happy smiling faces everywhere – Diddy galas are where we see true enthusiasm, delight, and total joy from the participants – before they grow up and the world turns them into teenagers???

It was a pleasure to sit up there in the gods with no administrative responsibility. A first for many years. With the prior approval of the lead referee, the President donned his formal hat and went to each team speaking to the Team Managers to thank them on behalf of LASA for their enthusiasm and support for the next generations.

BUT – and here lies a bit of the anomaly causing my previous comments – I noted that there were FIVE fully qualified and much experienced working referees poolside. There appeared to be NO shortage of additional qualified officials in the role of judges and chief timekeepers, all timekeeper positions were fully staffed and turn judges were of an experienced group. Indeed, there were at least two trainee referees (perhaps now qualified?) helping out with the Corby team acting as Team Managers. Northamptonshire appear to be able to keep officials far beyond just J1 status.

In Leicestershire, can we learn anything from whatever alchemy that exists in Northamptonshire? I live on the county border - and I'll be the first to admit that it baffles me!

A comparison of administration. A bigger paradox.

At Braunstone, the City of Leicester Open Meet, anyone wishing to video or photograph swimmers had been issued with a coloured wristband to denote their registration for that facility. It was announced that cameras should not - in any circumstances be used in the changing rooms. Photographers in the adjacent balcony with a coloured wristband not clearly displayed were challenged by the referee(s) to produce one. At Corby, a similarly Council run facility, there are a number of LARGE (**A1?**) sized posters on entry to the changing rooms and within in the changing rooms placed there by the Pool Operator, advising that cameras should not be used there. Additionally, Corby Swimming Club had supplemented those with their own A4 posters.

Corby pool has a more 'remote', higher balcony - virtually unviewable from poolside. Some members will know the layout well. Not unlike Coalville and Hinckley - but bigger and higher. Monitoring of photographers from poolside is virtually / practically impossible.

Announcement was made that photographers had no need for registration - but that they should be mindful of taking close up photos of their own swimmers only and seek to exclude other swimmers from the field of view. Frankly, having been sat up on the rear row of that large balcony and looking over the shoulders of spectators to see what they were doing, there is little or no monitoring of their activities. **THIS IS NOT A CRITICISM OF CORBY SWIMMING CLUB OR THEIR ADMINISTRATION. They do what they can - reasonably.** Indeed, spectators are actually encouraged and required to use their devices to access the programme, as paper, printed programmes are not available and are viewable only on the Club website - an innovation saving paper and the planet.

This means that devices are very much in evidence and so used. But without 'photography police' constantly and frequently patrolling at the rear of the balcony and being able to intimately view the screens of many

differing and multiple devices over the shoulders of five rows of almost 200 'banked' spectators, there is little actual feasible control.

So, here's the paradox.

- 1) Some of the swimmers who were at Braunstone were also at Corby.
- 2) The events are being run under the same national governing body - Swim England.
- 3) Both venues / clubs are in East Midland Region
- 4) LASA was 'locally' involved in both galas.

Now, I'm NOT saying here that either approach at either venue is right or wrong. But the difference is stark. What I am saying is that the inconsistency is wrong. Between these two approaches there has to be a practical and happy medium and, in my view, this 'direction' should be coming from Swim England nationally.

Throw into the equation too, the sometimes LIVE broadcast of events via the internet which is essentially 'open season' for any individual with nefarious inclinations. How can that be 'policed'?

Without any shadow of doubt, 'phones are NOT to be used by anyone, (especially those with Swim England affiliation) within the changing room areas. Sanctions are available. That is clear cut.

But the use of recording devices on the poolside and from the balcony is, at best, "woolly"; at worst BY ITS INCONSISTENCY IN LOCAL INTERPRETATION, "silly"?

The Chair of LASA in her role as Regional Welfare Officer, has said that she will address these two 'extremes' with SE to provide more consistent guidance. Thank you, Ursula.

4. Leicestershire ASA Executive Meeting Masters Report July 2025

Update Leicestershire Masters Open Meet 14th September 2025

I would like to advise that our Leicestershire ASA Masters Open Meet which takes place on Sunday 14th September is now Live and Open for entries.

Currently 30 swimmers have entered so far covering 110 individual events which is a positive start.

Traditionally entries gather momentum end July and early August after the swimmers have had their holiday. At this time, I remain confident we are on track for a good attendance this year – I will keep everyone updated.

NB Any Masters interested in entering our Leicestershire Master Meet all information and the online entry is available on our Leicestershire ASA Website, or they can click this link to our Meet information.

https://www.leicestershireasa.org/_files/ugd/98f271_20347392be344622885d0cc12d540c19.pdf

Once opened there is also a link to the online entry platform.

Please can you advise all Masters swimmers that our closing date for entries has been moved 1 week earlier to give more time to process all entries and get ready for the Meet so please do not leave it too late to enter.

Request for Officials to help with our Master Meet September 14th Braunstone LC.

Can I please ask all Leicestershire clubs to help to encourage Officials to volunteer to help us run our Leicestershire Meet this year. Many of our Masters swimmers regularly attend galas to officiate so younger

swimmers can compete and get times for the Rankings etc. Now some of our Officials are now swimming instead and we would really be grateful for volunteers to come forward to help and support them so that our meet can run and be a success once again.

Lee Smith is coordinating Officials for our Masters Meet and any Official interested including trainees can also click this link <https://swim-meet.com/Availability/?m=4715>

Also

British Masters Championships London Aquatics Centre.

I was able to visit this event, and it gave me great pleasure to see a good attendance from Leicestershire Masters swimmers, and I would like to say well done to everyone who took part.

I am also aware that a number of Leicestershire Masters are also swimming in Kenilworth Masters Meet this weekend and I can already see there have been some great swims from Leicestershire Masters and well done to all who have taken part.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our Leicestershire Masters meet in September.

5. LASA IT Manager Report July 2025

The 'facelift' of the LASA Website is continuing with most of the pages, if not all, now having the swimming pool/water background and white text boxes.

I have created a new Google Calendar and embedded this to a new Events Calendar Page, with a view to possibly sharing this with others so they can add their own events. This is not visible on the website by way of a menu option, but can be viewed here using this link:

<https://www.leicestershireasa.org/calendar>

Please can you take a look and if all happy I will replace the current Events page with this new Calendar.

There are other changes planned, such as splitting the Useful Links out from the Resources page into a separate page, and introducing a disability and Inclusivity page with specific links and information.